

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6644

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

:AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 32

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16227

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, AO

SUBJ: SOVIET OFFICIAL ON RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA

REF: STATE 265503; B. MOSCOW 16102 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON SECOND SECRETARY YURI ALEKSEOVICH SPIRON,
MFA ANGOLA DESK OFFICER NOVEMBER 11 TO DISCUSS CURRENT SOVIET
VIEWS OF ANGOLAN SITUATION.

2. SPIRIN BEGAN WITH STATEMENT THAT NOVEMBER 8
"OBSERVER" ARTICLE IN PRAVDA (REFTEL B) REPRESENTED
LATEST AND MOST AUTHORITATIVE ENUNCIATION OF SOVIET
POLICY. HE PROCEEDED TO REPEAT THE WELL-WORN ARGUMENTS
HEARD TO DATE, BUT STRESSED THE "SOUTHERN AFRICA"
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CONNECTION OF THE TWO ANTI-MPLA GROUPS TO THE "RACIST"

REGIMES OF RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH, IPSO FACTO RENDERED THE FNLA AND UNITA UNDERSERVING OF SUPPORT FROM RESPECTABLE QUARTERS. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SPIRIN DODGED THE ISSUE OF WHEN THE USSR WILL GRANT OFFICIAL RECOGNITION TO THE MPLA, BUT HE CONVEYED THE UNMISTAKABLE IMPRESSION THAT SUCH RECOGNITION IS IMMINENT. EMBOFF'S ARGUMENT THAT RECOGNITION BY OUTSIDE GOVERNMENTS OF ANY OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS COULD MAKE A NEGOTIATED COMPROMISE SOLUTION MORE DIFFICULT TO FIND WAS REJECTED OUT-OF-HAND ON THE GROUNDS THAT MOSCOW CONSIDERS THE CAUSE OF THE MPLA THE MOST JUST (IN THAT IT HAD LED THE 15 YEAR STRUGGLE AGAINST PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM) AND, THEREFORE, THE SOVIET UNION COULD NOT STAND IDLY BY "WHILE OUTSIDE, RACIST GOVERNMENTS CONDUCTED A MILITARY INTERVENTION DESIGNED TO RETAIN IMPERIALIST CONTROL."

3. SPIRIN AVOIDED A DIRECT REPLY WHEN ASKED WHAT ACTION THE USSR MIGHT TAKE SHOULD THE MILITARY SITUATION OF THE MPLA WORSEN. HOWEVER, ASKED IF THE SOVIET UNION WERE RULING OUT RELATIONS WITH ONE OF THE OTHER GROUPS, IN THE EVENT THE MPLA DID NOT PREVAIL IN THE CURRENT STRUGGLE, SPIRIN REPLIED THAT MOSCOW'S PARAMOUNT GOAL IS TO ENSURE "THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ANGOLA UNDER ONE UNITED LEADERSHIP."
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